

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE INDICATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS APPROXIMATE  
FOR KEY SUBJECTS

SOURCE: American observer (B) from OGATA Taketora. Appraisal of Content, 2 (reportorial accuracy.)

PD-829

1. OGATA Taketora, president of the Liberal Party, believes the Liberal Party will lose a maximum of ten seats in the 27 February Lower House elections, against a maximum 20 seat gain for the Japan Democratic Party, leaving the Liberal Party with a 30 seat plurality.
2. OGATA desires a merger with the Democrats but feels the spadework for this will require at least three months. OGATA thinks that a Liberal minority in the government is the most likely outcome of the elections, to be followed by a merger later. OGATA considers Democratic Party Secretary-General KISHI Nobusuke, Finance Minister ICHIMADA Hisato, and Democratic Party advisor ASHIDA Hitoshi as the Democrats most strongly favoring a conservative merger and the best democrats to work with for a merger. OGATA is determined to refuse a coalition government with the Democrats.<sup>1</sup>
3. OGATA is determined, if he becomes Premier, to lay the basis for a conservative absolute majority about one year later. He stated he would revise the election laws if necessary to accomplish this. His long-range aim is a real two party system, and fears an evolution of the disastrous French-style multi-party system.
4. OGATA stated that the Japan Communist Party (JCP) decision to use regular election methods<sup>2</sup> will have two effects, one good and one bad: (a) the JCP candidates will split the leftist vote and may cost the Leftist Socialist Party seats, thus helping the conservatives, while the JCP will probably not get more than three seats; (b) the Japanese people may get an erroneous impression of the JCP as an ordinary parliamentary party rather than a tool of the USSR.
5. OGATA has heard rumors that the Socialists are receiving financial assistance from abroad on a large scale, but has seen no concrete evidence of this.<sup>3</sup>

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- 2 -

1. Field Comment. OGATA exuded confidence and vitality, and seemed to relish the coming fight for Diet seats.
2. Field Comment. This is evidenced by the recent surfacing of the underground JCP number three man SHIGA Yoshio to run for the Diet.
3. Washington Comment. According to CS-53382, OGATA states that the outside financial help being received by the Socialists is coming primarily from the Chinese Communists. Also see CS-52873.

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